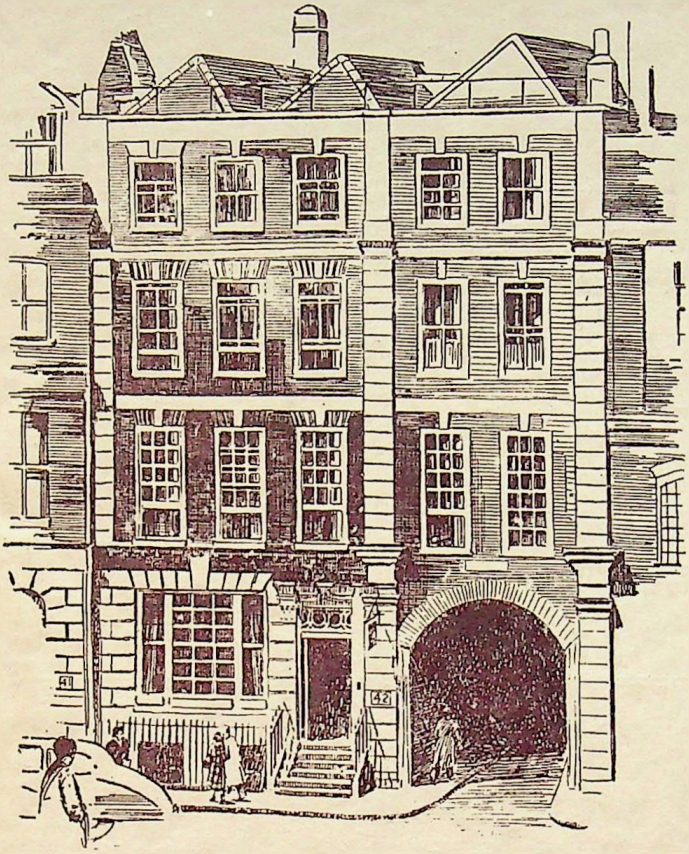
THE LOG

Toc H Women's Association



CRUTCHED FRIARS HOUSE. Headquarters of Toc H Women's Association

JULY-AUGUST, 1955

NINEPENCE

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THE LOG

VOL. XXIX ∴ NO. 4 JULY-AUGUST 1955

A FRIEND whose opinions about life and judgment on books are valuable, lent me a copy of *Mere Christianity*. I have not yet given it back: my time for reading is cut to the bone and this is a book not to be skipped. It needs all your mind—and is to be recommended, the recommendation underlined.

Here is an argument that begins at the beginning, goes step by step, slices away woolly thinking, gives you something real to discuss. Some of the discussions may be heated!

As this isn't my copy, I can't lend it to anyone, but Collins publish it in Fontana Books at 2/-. The author is C. S. Lewis, whose *Screwtape Letters* made me laugh (yes, and think, of course) years ago—and could delight you now for the first time if you haven't come across them.

I always feel that once people begin to want to lend each other books, a friendship is on a firm footing: this is not only a sharing of property but a sharing of ideas, and ideas *count*.

In this number, there are ideas enough to set many others bobbing up. To pick out one: the *Workrooms for the Elderly* scheme shows what can be done with an idea (p. 120)—it must have given back colour to many lives that were grown too grey; and given back confidence to others. It is a wonderful thing to give self-confidence to another human being: there have been one or two people in my life who have given me a fillip just when I couldn't do without it . . . .

Anyone who doesn't want a portrait published in the Log, please read this and see what pleasure and interest it can give. The extract is from a letter to Mrs. Worth from Mrs. Sim, Dominion Council Secretary in New Zealand:

"I must tell you how very much we are all enjoying the Log these days, especially the little personal bits about all the folk at Headquarters and the photographs. How thrilled I was to see just what Mr. and Mrs. Worth and their two little boys were like—there have been many comments about this series, may it continue till we know all about you all."

At the Painting is a Pleasure Exhibition I met Hon. Treasurer Mrs. Horne—and in the next number hope to have a portrait of her written by A.B.S.M. Plus a photograph. I look forward to this!

Editor: BARBARA VISE.

GOING AWAY

SOUTH AMERICA—here she comes! A. B. S. MACFIE plans a short visit there and hopes to take off from England on Sept. 27

THERE is a far-away continent in the southern hemisphere of the world we inhabit, which, to most of us, is terra incognita. It is a continent, according to my present imperfect information, still largely undeveloped. Virgin forests, measureless wastes, vast mountain ranges, undiscovered treasures and all the wonders of explorers' tales are to be found there. There are great extremes of climate, the upper part of the continent lying warmly and often humidly upon and around the equator, while the lower part stretches downwards like the foot of a ballerina gracefully tip-toeing upon Antarctica.

Toc H penetrated in very early days into this land of story and adventure, with its round dozen of countries (in four of which the movement may be found), and there have been women's branches since 1928. The membership has been drawn mainly from the British Communities, and the Mark in Buenos Aires has for many years been a very flourishing concern with a team of young men living there and rendering important service in the great city.

THE names of Lake-Lake, Ralph Jackson (Padre), Steve Lambert, Geoffrey Foster, Howard Dunnet, David Blair and others are bound up with the story of the development of Toc H in South America. In 1928-9 Tubby visited the country with two companions (Jack Richardson and Stanley Clapham), and in 1936 Barkis was there for four or five months. The first Patron, the Prince of Wales, also twice saw something of Toc H, in Argentina and in Chile. But for the most part Toc H in South America has gone forward under its own steam and with the contact made by its own members coming over to Great Britain from time to time.

It is important that we, over in Great Britain, should appreciate that even though we are so widely separated from the branches in South America, they, in fact, belong to the same family, and that this relationship carries with it a certain mutual responsibility. Their fortunes and ours are intertwined. If they fail, the failure is ours; if they do well, we are entitled to be proud of them. If we take a wrong turning, they are likely to follow.

Guess which is A.B.S.M. among these four sisters, May, Lettie, Atlie and Shiela snapped in a garden some years ago

We should get to know them and to understand their kind of life and the problems they face.

A LONG time ago members from Chile and Argentina would arrive in the Port of London in some small freighter, and make for Tower Hill and New June, full of enthusiasm and as keen as could be to see all they could of Toc H during their stay. I always wanted to go to see these members in their home branches, and the country to which such branches belonged. A juvenile ambition to sail up the Amazon gave place to the idea of visiting Toc H in this distant world under the Southern Cross. This idea is about to become reality. Though it was impossible to include South America in the tour of 1953-4, a short visit at the end of this year is being planned.

Travelling by air, the months of October and November will pass only too quickly, visiting Rio and Sao Paulo in Brazil; Montevideo in Uruguay; Buenos Aires in Argentina; crossing the

Andes to Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile. And at the end a leisurely journey up the Pacific coast is hoped for, with glimpses of interesting and unusual ports such as Callao, from which the Kon Tiki expedition started, then through the Panama Canal and so home across the Atlantic.

So, by and by, this terra incognita may be discovered for some of us, and there may be new tales to tell of the exploits of Toc H in strange and distant lands. And in the meantime I am equipping myself with a nice large map and a Collins Pocket Anglo-Spanish Dictionary, and seek information from anyone who may possess it regarding the history, fauna, flora and people of South America!

* * *

IF any branch is corresponding with a branch in South America and wishes to send a message, will they please let me have it before 25th of September. It will not be possible to take parcels, because luggage carried by air is strictly limited.

(*Answer: A.B.S.M. is the little girl on the extreme left of the picture.*)

WE WILL REMEMBER

Florence Parker—*East Grinstead. A Builder.* 9.3.51—16.4.55

Elizabeth Handley—*Ferryhill.* 26.6.53—January, 1955

Dora Somerville—*Pierremont.* 12.10.51—4.4.55

J. A. Read—*Ipswich.* 12.5.43—16.5.55

Flora Bessie Doe—*Lymington.* 28.11.49—Spring, 1955

Mary Purnell—*Cardiff.* 14.5.48—27.4.55

Florence Ringrose—*R.H.H.I.* 2.1.53—21.4.55

Rose W. Trevis—*Central Branch.* 15.6.31—April, 1955

Amy Wightman—*Croydon.* 20.11.28—13.4.55

OVERSEAS INNINGS

ELISABETH WORTH, Overseas Secretary
brings together news from far-flung places.

In **AUSTRALIA** Headquarters have moved to Victoria where members have come forward to act as officers to the Australian Council. The new Secretary to the Council is Mrs. G. Smith, c/o Toc H, 476 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Warmest thanks to South Australia for bearing the responsibility of Headquarters for so long and good wishes to Victoria as they take up the work. (N.B. There are no paid workers in Australia —the Women's Association is run on an entirely voluntary basis.) News of the **AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL** in **ADELAIDE** in April in the next Log.

Gwen Crow, of **W. AUSTRALIA**, represented both Toc H Women's Association and the Y.M.C.A. at the Pan-Pacific Conference at Manila in February. The theme of the Conference was the social and economic inter-dependence of the Pacific countries. Other subjects discussed were the position of women in social and economic standards, their influence, their right to work and the changing pattern of their daily lives. Education, home industries, handicrafts and trade relations were also the subjects of talks.

From our new branch in **SINGAPORE** comes news: —"We have been in contact with the Red Cross and through them are doing hospital visiting—soldiers, who are in hospital from Malaya and have no one to visit them. A member supplies a car weekly to enable the Red Cross workers to go into Singapore to shop for the patients. Another job we have is visiting a home for Mentally Retarded Children. This is run by the Social Welfare and they are very well cared for. Toc H (men) gave them their first party on Christmas Day and it was wonderful. We now visit them and one of our members who is a music teacher, has been trying to teach them (and us, to replace her when she goes home) to play a Percussion Band. The fun we've had! And the children just love it. This is a really worthwhile job. We thought we might have difficulty over the language problem, but although there are Chinese, Indian, Malays, we find we manage very well. I wish you could hear them trying to say nursery rhymes."

FROM TORONTO **By Alice Tannahill**

THE Toronto Branch of the Toc H Women's Section is a small group but an active one. Several valued members have had to resign from active membership because of illness, and two of the group have moved too far away to attend meetings, though they are very much with us in spirit.

Picture by the Photographic Survey Corporation Ltd., Toronto, Canada, shows Toronto's impressive waterfront.

Despite our smaller numbers, we have been able to continue with our usual activities. One night a month is devoted to sewing pads to be distributed to patients by the Canadian Cancer Society. Sometimes the work night is spent in packing a bale for distribution on a Mission Field in the West. For a number of years this was sent to Gladys Goodacre, whose sudden death was keenly felt by all of us, who have valued our association with her. At intervals through the year, parcels are also sent to a young leper boy in Africa, to whose care the group contributes.

At Christmas the members help the residents of Clarkewood, a home for sightless women, with their Christmas shopping, and an evening or two is spent there addressing cards and wrapping gifts. We are also privileged to help with the Annual Picnic given each Dominion Day by the Comrades' Club, another organization for the blind.

Because the group is small, we have hesitated to invite outside speakers to address our meetings, relying instead on often unsuspected talent within the group for our programmes. We especially enjoyed the visit of Mrs. Mannock from Edinburgh, who brought us greetings from her own group and enlivened an otherwise routine business meeting with extremely entertaining impressions of Canada.

May we of Toronto take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to our sister branches across the world.

Tribute to
Ella Grist, Pilot and Friend

In gratitude for one who humbly walked
To Toc H Room, and home of sick and poor,
Who often with the Elder Brother talked
That she might help the erring Family more;
We join to make our offering in this hour
To her beloved Church, All Hallows-by-the-Tower.

In gratitude for one who brought a Light
Into a little group one Autumn night,
Which as the weeks and months in order passed
Lighted another Family flame at last—
Till with the Padre in their Rushlight's glow
They pledged themselves a fairer way to know.

For friendship given, and for counsel wise
When we had often stumbled on the way,
And almost lost those things we most should prize
And seen the dimming of the Light's clear ray;
She with the courage of the quiet mind
Helped us a surer, safer way to find.

Her soul, now from its mortal body cast
Knows not this world's afflictions any more,
A weary Pilot Haven finds at last,
And those she knew, and loved, and served before;
While Light still passes on from Light to Light
And they with Christ rejoice to see the Light.

by

C. M. ADAMS

"WE'LL LOOK AFTER

THIS year is the seventieth anniversary of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association—or SSAFA, as it has come generally to be known.

Most of us know something of the work it does; founded in 1885 by Sir James Gildea (they called him the 'soldier's friend') it was created to provide a friendly welfare and advisory service for the families and dependants of men in the fighting Forces. Now it extends the same help to Service and ex-Servicewomen.

Ever since those early days of the last century, the aim of the Association has been to ensure that all who serve overseas can do so with the certitude that the families they leave behind at home, are in good hands. To do any job properly, a man needs peace of mind—especially about those nearest and dearest to him. It makes a wonderful difference if he knows they have someone to turn to in case of ill-health or family trouble; that there is someone whom they can ask equally well for advice or if need be for practical assistance.

NO problem is too big, no worry too small for SSAFA workers to help with. In 1935, for instance, they dealt with a total of 156,000 problems—or an average of three thousand a week.

What sort of problems, you may ask? All sorts! Problems relating to allowances, compassionate leave, family troubles. Sometimes it is chiefly a need of some experienced person with whom to talk over a difficulty, or again it may be a question of financial worry—trouble in keeping up payments on furniture or household articles, perhaps some sort of problem in connection with lively youngsters or with invalid old people.

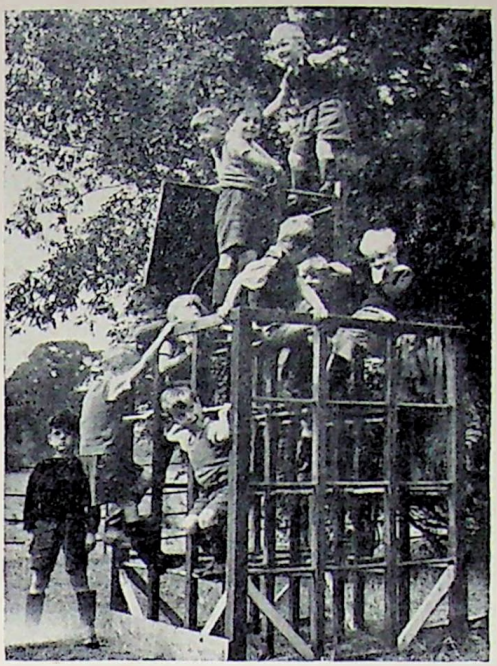
SSAFA has representatives within easy reach of every town and village in Gt. Britain, who do their best to act as a personal link between the serviceman overseas and those he leaves at home.

Sometimes, especially where there are growing children, or old people, families with small incomes find it difficult to keep abreast of the clothes and footwear needed. Or they may be able to cope with everyday necessities, but find it out of the question to stretch the budget to a frock for a special occasion for nine-year-old Jennifer, or a pair of football boots for Tommy. It is then that the SSAFA Clothing Branch comes to the rescue.

Working parties in this country and overseas have made it possible for the Association to give away more than a quarter of a million garments each year. Clothes of all sorts—frocks and jerseys, shirts and skirts, blankets and babies' layettes, stout shoes and cosy slippers—all go to give service where most needed.

THEM"

. . . . that is the slogan S.S.A.F.A. took up during war-time. This year, that vigorous Association celebrates its 70th anniversary and MARGARET STEVENSON gives many good reasons why we will want to wish it many happy returns of the day



They are having a lovely game—at Springbok House in Essex

(The SSAFA Clothing Branch, 114 Draycott Avenue, London, S.W.3, is always glad to receive women and children's clothing and babies' wear. Perhaps you might help to organise a working party to provide some of these?)

The accent, in all that SSAFA does, is on maintaining family life in its truest and happiest sense. At Springbok House in Essex, for instance, they have a home-from-home to which small boys and girls may be sent if Mother should fall ill while Father is away overseas. Up to thirty children can be cared for at a time here, for periods of up to four weeks. The home was the gift of the people of South Africa, and the happy picture illustrating this article gives you some idea of the warm and friendly feeling which prevails there.

ONE of SSAFA's other activities is the Nursing Service—originally formed in 1892, when the Sisters were known as "Alexandra" Nurses, in tribute to the Princess of Wales, later H.M. Queen Alexandra, who was first President of the Council of SSAFA and took a keen and personal interest in all its work. SSAFA nurses now look after Servicemen's families in a number of stations overseas—and, wherever they go, they are soon looked upon as friends by both mothers and children.

Although the cost of this service is now borne by public funds, it is still administered and controlled by SSAFA.

Then, too, there is the Officers' Branch, which helps the widows and children of officers of all branches of the United Services. Queen Alexandra's Court at Wimbledon—a block of seventy-nine flats, which was built by the Branch—provides rent-free accommodation for officers' widows and for elderly unmarried daughters of limited means.

Many Service families who live in the country come up to London each year; some to spend a holiday, others just passing through on their way to another destination. The Married Families Club, in Nevern Square, Earls Court, London, is a SSAFA undertaking which provides all the comforts of an up-to-date hotel with special facilities for children, at very moderate prices.

TO carry on with the many different aspects of its work, SSAFA needs more than £150,000 annually. Much of this sum is raised by the Association itself. One of the most successful means by which a substantial sum is raised each year is the SSAFA Searchlight Tattoo—one of London's most spectacular and gorgeously colourful entertainments. One of the principal features of this year's Tattoo, which takes place at the White City Stadium from July 4th-8th inclusive, is the landing in Scotland of Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Gathering of the Clans, the battle of Prestonpans and the departure to Skye—with all the accompanying swing of the kilt and skirl of the pipes to enthrall audiences.

15,000 voluntary workers give their services to SSAFA. Yet, in spite of the number, still more are needed.

SPEAKING at a Press Reception in London earlier this year, Countess Mountbatten, whose husband is the President of SSAFA, stressed the need for more workers when she spoke of the ever-expanding nature of the work taken on by the Association:

"An Association doing this kind of general welfare work, cannot afford to stand still. It has to march with the times. It has to take heed of the changes which take place in our way of life and to adapt itself accordingly."

In recent years, for example, National Service has brought a steady flow of new problems to be solved. Many young Servicemen have widowed mothers whom they help to support; they may have wives with small babies, or help in the running of a family business. When they are called up, they turn to SSAFA for help just as do ex-Servicemen and the widows of Service and ex-Servicemen of the first World War.

During war-time, the Association adopted a slogan—WE'LL LOOK AFTER THEM—and it is one which they are carrying on with every day through the years of peace.

JOURNEY to REFUGEE AREAS in the NEAR EAST

I ARRIVED at Beirut at 3 a.m. on 21st December and was surprised to find how warm and pleasant it was. I had been warned by "those who knew" that it would be very cold in December especially at night. My hotel bedroom was on the first floor overhanging the beautiful Beirut bay with its bright blue sea and the Lebanese hills, now snow-capped, rising up from the town. I watched two Arab fishermen for hours, seemingly motionless and apparently not catching any fish. They were there every day from dawn to sunset looking exactly like a picture in my Bible I read every day when a child, and what a contrast to the modern comfort of my hotel. I never really believed in those pictures until Christmas 1954.

On the 22nd, the U.N.R.W.A. Liaison Officer with the Voluntary Bodies took me to see refugee camps at Baalbek and Anjijan. While I was assured that the Baalbek camp was *much* better than it was a year ago, it was a heart-breaking place. It is miles away from Beirut, high up among the mountains near the Cedars of Lebanon, very cold in winter and too remote for employment.

THERE were 2,600 adults and 200 children from 2 to 18 years and 60 from 1 to 2 years. It had been a French military barracks for a much smaller number and was now packed to suffocation. I saw families living in dreadful squalor in cellar sort of places under the building. Up to the present there were no sanitary arrangements, but now there are plans in hand and, of course, where possible, the families have a little fire in the centre of their living place, but with no outlet for the smoke. That is not only to give warmth but is the refugee's effort to make it as much like home as possible.

THERE is a new school, a supplementary feeding centre, a new communal bakery (greatly appreciated) and new washing quarters with primitive but workable showers. I could almost "feel" the progress of U.N.R.W.A. and the friendly co-operation with the Churches. My question was, progress to what? That question never left my mind during the following fortnight.

Educational facilities are increasing daily. While at the beginning only 30% of the Arab refugees were literate, now there are 80% and they are thus ahead of the non-refugees around them. There seems little hope of going beyond the elementary stages—a terrible frustration. Some re-thinking about the kind of education in such a situation seems to be necessary.

U.N.R.W.A. provides ration cards for all registered refugees and the Voluntary Agencies provide supplementary feeding. The children get extra food through UNICEF.

I shall not easily forget three women sitting on their haunches with tin bowls in their hands waiting for the food centre to open. They were dressed in the usual Arab women's fashion of a drab black long coat-like garment over an assortment of cast-off American clothes with faces and heads half covered. Their eyes were dumb-looking and their patience was of eternity. They were as stone and looked as though they had been waiting with those bowls from the beginning of time. The patient fatalism of the Moslem in his belief in God and that in time God will cease his punishment and will then restore him to his former state is difficult for Western Christians to understand. While we might cry, "How long, O Lord, how long?" we would protest politically or try to put it right in some way or other; even if disappointment was inevitable, we would keep on trying to be "practical".

THE camp at Anjijan was better; it is one of the best. The refugees were housed in single cement huts, a family to a hut. This is the considered policy of U.N.R.W.A. and the tented camps are getting fewer every week. Most families ran to eight or nine in number, about 80% got good part-time work. They live side by side with an Armenian settlement and there is a good water supply for both. I was shown the newly-built reservoir. The difference between the two is that the Armenians are Lebanese citizens but not the refugees, mostly from Galilee.

WHILE the story of the Arab refugee and the political implications are known to all, I am not sure that it is sufficiently realised just what it involves in the terms of continuous personal suffering during the long years while the Western Allies try to find a solution to the problem. This presents British Christians with a real responsibility.

I saw many camps, visited several border villages. I saw houses half in Israel, half in Jordan, and many small olive

JANET LACEY, Secretary, Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service, British Council of Churches, took a long journey and brings back a problem picture where there is still plenty to be solved . . . .

groves divided by the imaginary line. In England, in a comparable situation in a suburb, it would be a matter of life and death for a householder to go down to his compost heap at the bottom of the garden. It is difficult to be objective about such a situation. In all areas the programme carried out by the Near East Christian Council is similar, namely, literacy classes, distribution of clothing and supplementary food, and vocational training courses, nearly all in co-operation with U.N.R.W.A. Devoted men and women work long hours for these unhappy people.

In between the excitement and wonder of being in Jerusalem for Christmas, the "queerness" of walking on roads so familiar by name, of trying to realise the full impact of the desolation on the way to Jericho, I had many talks about the political situation with Arabs and with British and Americans living in the Arab States. I met some Arabs from Israel over for the Festival and on Boxing Day saw thousands lining up to go through the Gate returning to Israel after visiting their relatives and friends. There is no "let-up" in the tension; it goes on and on.

ON my return early in January from Nairobi, I visited refugees in Cairo and attended the Near East Christian Council committee for refugees at the co-ordinating committee. Those in Cairo are not eligible for ration cards and are living in rooms in the slums of Cairo. Here I was shown the worst slums I have ever seen in my twenty years of social work. The filth and the smells were indescribable and the tiny rooms in which these families live with no money except what they scrounge or get from selling "refugee" clothing were quite dreadful. The main difficulty in seeking help from the Egyptians, as I see it, is that the poor Egyptians live in precisely the same conditions and with the Arab fatalism do not see the more difficult problem of the Palestinians from Jaffa and Galilee who have no right to live even in these slums.

THE needs are particularly for grants for vocational training and for the purchase of material for clothing, specially for men, and for funds to help with the growing problem of juvenile delinquency. The British Council of Churches Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service is doing all it can to find money to send for the relief of the Arab refugees.

The address of the Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service is 10 Eaton Gate, London, S.W.1

A NEW ZEALANDER

MY introduction to Toc H was away back in the early 1930's and came by way of a badge worn on the lapel of a man's coat. This badge intrigued me and I was anxious to find out more, but somehow I didn't learn a great deal beyond the fact that the badge was the emblem of Toc H, and that the society was male, that they met every week, had talks, and did good works by stealth. And that was my first Toc H. How Toc H was to loom large in my life after that, I was still to learn. Monday night I found was for Toc H and I must not expect to intrude on that particular night.

Then came the war and in our city, Toc H started a canteen with the man in my life helping on Friday evenings from six until eleven. I had a job by then so that I had little time for pleasure, but on occasions I would go into town and meet the aforementioned man and we would have dinner. Seeing other young women with their escorts arm-in-arm and enjoying an evening in town I would plead with my companion that he spend a Friday evening with me, but alas, to no avail: there was Toc H and his job for the evening so, on the dot of six, I was alone and, muttering darkly just what I thought of Toc H, I would leave for home.

WAR went on, and so did Toc H, and by this time I had married the Toc H-er. Still working and with a home to look after as well, Saturday evening was the only night I could go out for a little pleasure, but my husband being at Toc H canteen the night before and maybe having to walk all or part of the way home through missing the last tram was too tired. Toc H—how I loved it!

Finally came peace and the canteen was closed but there was still Toc H and by this time they had acquired an orchestra of their own and to raise funds for this orchestra they had a mid-week concert. My husband had two tickets and although he was too tired on Saturday, he was not too tired to attend this mid-week concert. Toc H.

IN time we moved to another district but he still went over to Toc H, with all the business of early dinner—to catch a particular bus—and then the long wait for the last bus home. Toc H—was I never to get away from it!

Then he discovered a Toc H group near to home and so we still had Toc H. Someone had the bright (?) idea of starting a Women's Section and I was invited to attend. What was said before I went to this initial meeting is best forgotten. Against my own desire, my husband persuaded me to keep on going; but,

FINDS TOC H

. . . but if that title makes you feel LYDIA BURROWS was looking for it, read this amusing (and interesting) account of something that was anything but a search!

oh! how hard it was, and if I could find an excuse to miss a meeting I took it with both hands. One evening I was asked to say prayers. I never had a harder task given me. I felt such a hypocrite, the words had no meaning and therefore did good neither to Toc H nor to me.

THEN came the night I was to have been initiated, but it did not eventuate. Through unforeseen circumstances my initiation was postponed three times. I was more pleased than otherwise at this, and felt quite sure that I was not meant to be a Toc H member. However I couldn't be reprieved for long and eventually I was initiated. Still I attended the meetings in a half-hearted fashion, until one night I really felt I just could not keep up the pretence any longer and I had made up my mind that that was the last meeting I would attend. At this meeting I was asked to take "Light". I agreed, but with what misgiving, only I will ever know. The room was plunged in darkness: I held the lighted match in my hand. Then I lit the rush-light and as I began to say, "With proud thanksgiving let us remember our elder brethren" I had the most wonderful feeling that Someone was standing behind us, and this Someone put His arms about me and my heart felt lighter than it had done for many a long day; and I was able to complete the simple and beautiful ceremony and to feel and to mean every word that I uttered. So at last I had found and had learned about Toc H.

LETTERS

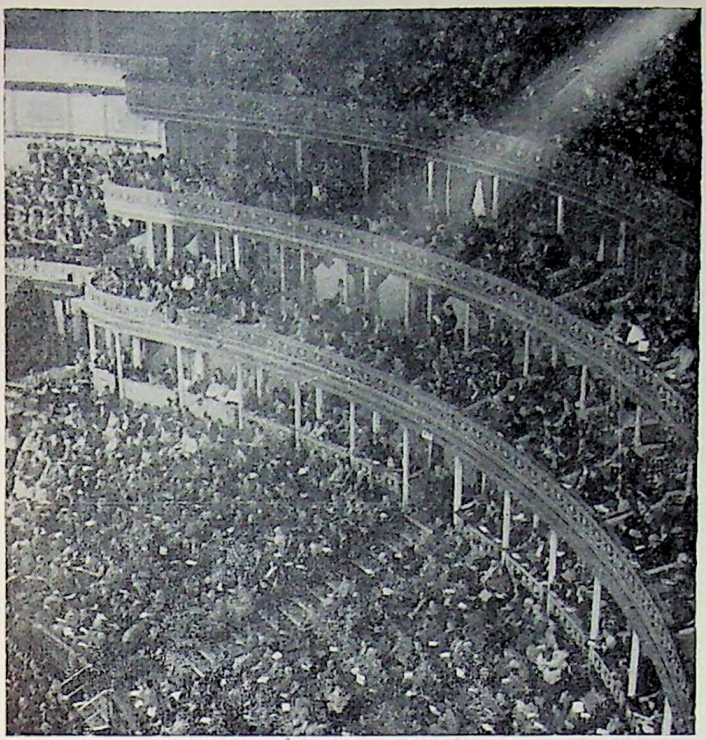
. . . . THERE ARE THREE PAGES FULL OF THEM THIS MONTH BEGINNING ON PAGE 126 AND LYDIA BURROWS, WHO WROTE THIS ARTICLE, HAS A LETTER THERE TOO ABOUT THE WORK THE TAKAPUNA GROUP, TO WHICH SHE BELONGS, IS DOING . . . .

FESTIVAL, 1955

"WHAT'S going on," asked a policeman outside the Albert Hall. "Is this a football match?" Scrum it might be, but no football crowd could have hailed old friends with such cheer or made so many new ones, mostly by bumping into them. No football match, but the Toc H Festival of 1955 held on 23rd April, in bright spring sunshine which was reflected in the faces of over 4,000 men and women who had gone to town in a big way for this event.

The ducks in St. James's Park must have eyed the groups of humans clustering round the lake that afternoon with some surprise.

It was fortunate that we were not given the choice between Westminster Abbey, where the Provost of Leicester preached, or Westminster Chapel, filled to its top gallery to hear the Bishop of Thetford, our well-loved Pat Leonard: I, for one, would have dithered helplessly between the two, but "they" decided for me and I listened to Pat Leonard's convincing challenge to



Many thanks to the generous Toc H Journal for lending us these two blocks

Toc H regarding the colour question in this country, with deep interest and stirring of conscience.

High tea set us up for the journey to the Albert Hall, well-tried venue for the Festival Evening. The traditional opening of community singing led by the choir of Westminster Training College, was conducted by Dr. George Brockless but, as usual, half the audience was so busy picking out old friends that they forgot to sing. Sometime early in the evening, the audience spotted Tubby making his way towards the platform, and all rose to their feet and gave him a rousing affectionate welcome.

JOHN CALLF, Administrator of Toc H, read a message from Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of Toc H, followed by some from overseas—Malaya, Australia, New Zealand, Argentine.

ERICA TREVELYAN LEE tells the story of a meeting with many meanings

John introduced the Guest Speaker, Professor E. G. Bowen, of Aberystwyth, who with his quick Welsh enthusiasm, stated his conviction that Toc H is Relevant, Resourceful and Realistic—and he must have stirred all those who heard (though some were defeated by the Albert Hall echo) to renewed belief in this movement and fresh determination to see that it does not fall short of these three Rs.

THE roar of voices in hall and corridor during the interval was stilled by the lowering of lights and then the banners began to march in slowly. On and on they came, till they filled the choir seats behind the platform and it seemed impossible to believe they would ever stop, but, when all were assembled and the shutters of the lights slowly lifted, a magnificent heraldic design was revealed, a concentration of glowing colours that took away one's breath. And, while we gazed on this lovely pattern, in came the lamp-bearers from all quarters, into the empty arena, forming up closely, silently. From the Prince's Lamp, Tubby lit tapers and as he said the word "Light", house-lights were dimmed and, as one man, bearers raised their lamps high—and there was the double cross of Ypres and Toc H formed by hundreds of little twinkling lights. The most impressive moment of the whole evening. And for once the balconyites had the best of it—a fine bird's eye view.

AFTER the Ceremony of Light the lamp-bearers moved quickly to the side to allow the banners, in double file, to make their way out of the hall. They had gone—the Festival Evening was ending—hands linked along the stalls between the boxes, we sang Auld Lang Syne.

Sunday morning, and this time it was the turn of the Tower Hill pigeons to look and wonder, for the hill was like a fair, people coming and going to and from the services at All Hallows, where we gave thanks and re-dedicated ourselves to our service to God, looking at the new church now roofed, thronging "42" and Crutched Friars House. A real family gathering, re-inforced by visits to the Marks and a worthy preliminary to the Family Gathering in the afternoon at the Horticultural Hall. We had three-minute talks from the home base, from Ron Evans telling how Hope and Caergwrle Toc H is building a chapel for Meadows Lea Sanatorium; from L. Orford, Middlewood, Cheshire, giving news of their Community Centre job; from Bert Partington, a Trades Unionist. Then our imaginations were thrilled by stories of Rhodesia (Sir Robert Tredgold), West Africa (Hugh Beeton), Malaya (Howard Cooksey). We heard stories of Bishops from Pat Leonard ("we Bishops of Thetford are genial men, you know") and Hubert Secretan; and Tubby was greeted once more with acclamation. Tea was drunk, the last good wishes made and message taken—and the Festival was over.

"THE COURAGE TO BE"

I HAVE borrowed this title from a book (published by Nisbet, 10/6) by Professor Paul Tillich. Not that I mean to summarise his exciting arguments, but because the phrase itself has something to say to us in Toc H.

In Toc H the importance of service is rightly emphasized, for we can best share life and thought working alongside of others—but, you will agree that our influence depends largely upon what we *are*. The framers of the Main Resolution knew this, and if you look carefully you will see where the emphasis lies; e.g.—"to send them forth strengthened . . . to listen . . . for the voice of God . . .to know His will revealed in Christ . . . to think . . . to love . . . to witness . . . to build". All this seems to say *begin here* where you *are*. It is *you* who must listen, think, love. . . I believe we must take these words very seriously, for the healthiness of our activities in Toc H depends upon their being so taken. Toc H is calling us to *be* as well as to *do*.

What follows is just for those who care about 'being', so if you are not interested, skip the rest.

BEING. We speak of human *beings*, but we are not static, our beings are always growing. Remember those lovely words "As many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the children of God". (St. John 1, v. 12.) Or you may remember that when our Lord called the twelve disciples it was 'that they might be with Him and that He might send them forth' (Mk. 8, 14). Compare this with 'Listening now and always . . .' This seems to show how far-sighted were the framers of the Main Resolution, when, after stating the aim of the movement, they lead the initiate to pledge himself "to strive to listen now, and always for the voice of God". Set this beside the first of the four concrete suggestions as to doing God's Will fearlessly, i.e., "To think fairly", and you reach the heart of the matter. For listening requires concentration of thought.

THE importance of thought is often emphasized in the Bible, for the power of conscious thought is indeed Divine, and to be able to think is man's glorious heritage. We meet with God

in our thoughts and hold converse with Him (though, conversely, we may exclude Him from our thoughts, and thus from our lives). So let us take a look at that word *now*—'listen now'—this very moment. The trouble with our minds is their instability. It is hard to concentrate on a definite job for any length of time, but what about the moments when we don't require to concentrate? If we analyse our thoughts, we find that they are controlled largely by two faculties of our mind. On the one hand *memory* is busy bringing back to us past events, discussions, and on the other, *imagination* is busy jumping us into the future, with ideas as to what we may do or say. Thus between memory and imagination our minds fail to notice the present moment. And yet how important it is! It is really *all* we have. Of what use is the past or the future? It is the present that matters. It is in the present that we can *be*. It is what we are doing *now* that matters. As we meet with our friends in the present, so we meet with God in the present moment, not in the past or the future. Here is what that great Christian philosopher Nicolas Berdyaev says about the present moment. "The Kingdom of God comes not only at the end of time but at every moment. A moment may lead us from time into eternity . . . . There are two ways to eternity—through the depth of the moment, and through the end of time and of the world" (The Destiny of Man, p. 290, published by Geoffrey Bles 15/-). How wonderful that in the midst of the bustle and cares of life in time, we can slip away, in the moment, to eternity, and return with shining eyes to our work!

BUT, this depends upon our *thinking*, and somehow we have to keep memory and imagination in their place, and not allow them to engage our whole attention. Berdyaev criticises the speed of modern life as being a movement away from eternity. There seems little we can do about this, but we can at least remember that everything God creates is rhythmic in its movement and does not rush along in a straight line. In the physical world this movement is seen on the physical plane only. We sleep and wake, breathe in and out, and nature moves from winter to spring. But human beings, made in the

MARIANNE TURNER writes an article of such intrepid sincerity that it is bound to make many of us take stock of our lives

image of God, belong to two worlds, and the life of Christians in this world swings between time and eternity, poised between their Father's business in this world, and their communion with their Father Himself. This is seen most perfectly in the incarnate life of Christ, our Example, Who shows us too, that in this way we become more deeply involved in the world's problems. The tragedy of human life is seen in those who rush from one activity to another, gathering what stimulus they can from their external environment or in ideas and images unrelated to God. How fortunate are those who know how to withdraw into "the depth of the moment" and find the God "in whom we live and move and have our being", Acts 17, v.28, and hearing His word, try to do His will as they move among their fellow men. I think you will agree that it is those who are thus poised who have most to give. Their serenity alone makes them attractive to others.

But I leave you, if you will, to consider this further, and to discuss the ways in which Courage is needed for the kind of life which finds eternity in the midst of time. Courage to withdraw from some of the bustle, courage to become air-borne rather than earthbound, courage to stand up against the ever-increasing tendency to do rather than to be.

In the next Log I want to write more. In the meantime you might write yourself to the Editor, or to me.

So I end with this reminder: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23, v. 7).

WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT, 1955

THIS year the World Chain of Light will be observed on Saturday, 10th December, at 9 p.m. G.M.T., followed by a 24-hour vigil ending at 9 p.m. G.M.T. on Sunday, 11th December, for those who wish to participate. A sequence of hourly "themes" revised but similar in outline to those used last December will be available in due course from Crutched Friars House. It will be for District Teams and Branches to make whatever local arrangements they wish but it is hoped that this year the Women's Association will share in the Vigil wholeheartedly. There is no present intention to hold a Vigil in 1956. Because of the Vigil no special leaflet will be issued for Michaelmas Day, but Branches will remember the day in whatever way they think best.

TOC H CENTRAL

THERE were all the ingredients for a good Central Council and Staff Conference except warm sunshine, when members of the Council, and of the men's and women's staff, assembled at Swanwick on May 13th: a welcome from nearby Vicar and member Dick Craig, punctual and ample meals, a roomy conference house, and a determination to enjoy the proceedings as well as getting through them as effectively as possible.

Well-known personalities in the movement were greeted happily as they took part in their various capacities; Tubby giving news of the plans for the hoped-for removal of Toc H H.Q. to Tower Hill; Hubert Secretan taking the Chair, and John Callf speaking to the Annual Report.

John Callf suggested that at times there was a lack of strategic thinking and long-term planning in Toc H; surely the movement had been created to do something nobody else was doing, and had a job to do in helping people to realise neglected truths about the Christian Family. It ought too to stand firmly against the modern tendency to like everything in tabloid form, and to remember the value of mixing and thinking in small groups as against the prevalent leaning towards action on a vast scale.

DISCUSSION in conference sessions, and on the Forward Committee Report afforded opportunity for consideration of some of the important issues in society to-day about which Toc H is feeling a special concern. Speakers on the relationships with coloured people coming to this country revealed some of the difficulties which must be faced, for instance that of finding common interests outside the sphere of work, the problem of getting landladies to accept coloured lodgers, in some cases, and differences in social customs.

Following Charles Norman's resolution about Old People at the 1954 Council, news was given of the pilot scheme being undertaken in Ilford to give old people work. The Borough Council and the Council of Social Service were combining to establish an old people's workshop to enable 30-50 people to be employed at once.

Ways of befriending National Service men, the Vigil, and the care of members moving from one part of the country to another, were also talked out.

ONE day was given to a joint staff conference when discussion ranged over many topics, from the relationship of Toc H to schools, to the "Painting is a Pleasure" Exhibition being held in London for Toc H; and the opportunities of presenting the Christian Faith in a medium and language likely to appeal to

COUNCIL, MAY, 1955

CELIA POWELL reports on a good meeting where the spirit was friendly and the work done considerable

many outside organised religion, given by the Pilgrim Players. Offers of hospitality to the players, and help with publicity, could enable members to further their work.

OUR own Staff Conference was able, with the lively help of Mrs. Herklots, J.P., who had attended as an accredited visitor, to see something of Evanston from the inside, to see it as the culmination of 50 years' work, and to understand afresh how concerned the World Council of Churches is with many aspects of life, as we studied in greater detail one of the Reports, that on "The Responsible Society", with its challenging questions addressed some to those in Communist, and others to those in non-Communist countries.

Domestic matters, and thought about such matters as how to extend Toc H in new towns and housing estates, occupied our last cold, if mainly fine, day, though there was still time to look at the Derbyshire countryside admiring (?) the fresh snow; while a pleasantly frivolous evening ended a fruitful and enjoyable session at Swanwick.

HOLIDAY HELP?

THE National Association for the Paralysed runs a Holiday Scheme designed to enable badly disabled men and women to get away from home for a week or so, both to give them a change and to provide rest and relief for those who look after them. To make these "holidays" REAL holidays, however, there is a great need for people who will wheel the disabled in their wheeled chairs, take them for car drives, invite them out to tea.

N.A.P. is approaching local clubs and branches of national organisations, and it would be of enormous help if the idea were more widely adopted by the Toc H Women's Association branches.

The areas where help is needed most are:—Whitstable, Margate, Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Deal, Bexhill, Brighton, Hove, Worthing, Bournemouth, Weston-super-Mare, Swansea, Lytham St. Annes and Whitby.

The N.A.P. is a registered charity, and was founded in 1948 by two young ex-Service officers, both of whom were permanently disabled by war wounds. The Association helps all men and women who are disabled, no matter from what cause, and since its formation has compiled a list of more than 6,000 people who need or have needed its help and advice.

Volunteers should get in touch with the Secretary of the National Association for the Paralysed, Mr. Patrick Stewart, at 1, York Street, Baker Street, London, W.1.

WORKROOMS for the ELDERLY

MANY Boroughs have a system whereby elderly people, when they need assistance, place a coloured card carrying the appropriate abbreviation in their front window in the hope that a local guardian will see it and report to the local body. A necessary evil in the present circumstances, but we should decry the conditions which make it necessary.

Imagine for a moment the extreme loneliness of many elderly people, of whom there are seven million over retirement age in this country. They lose faith in themselves because they feel that they are no longer effective members of society. Yet in these pensioners there is a vast store of energy which can help to solve the very problems which they create.

Many of them need never experience loneliness and inactivity and, as a result of the following resolution being passed at last year's Central Council, it is hoped before the end of this year to employ a large number of pensioners in Ilford and to knit them into a working community where they can once again experience love and friendship and at the same time earn a few extra shillings:—

> "Bearing in mind the spiritual and material requirements of Old Age Pensioners, this Central Council commends to all Branches the close study of all opportunities for the systematic training and employment of Old Age Pensioners, and requests the Central Executive to lend its support to the foundation of a Pilot Scheme and ensure that all possible assistance be given to Branches that are keen to promote this work."

IN the first place, discussions were held with several local firms who thought that they might be able to provide outwork when the scheme started. Secondly, the experience of other bodies, who had already established similar employment schemes, was sought.

At a later stage a Public Meeting was held and a Committee formed representing all Organisations in the Borough.

It was obvious from the start that finance was going to be one of our biggest problems. As a result, a house-to-house appeal was organised, which raised £850 towards the Scheme.

Further help was forthcoming from the Council of Social Service who, with the co-operation of the Borough Council, are providing a new building at a nominal rent.

CHARLES J. NORMAN, Hon. Sec. of the Ilford branch of this scheme, describes its purpose and makes one feel there should be a branch in every district.

IN schemes of this nature, however, it is essential that every precaution is made to prevent Pensioners being used as a form of cheap labour and that the benefits are there for anybody who may care to take advantage of them. It may well be that the Aims and Objects, as outlined below, will be the main contribution of Toc H:—

(a) To promote public recognition of the contribution old age pensioners can make to society. To develop and encourage relations with other sections of the community. To stimulate and make possible the continued use of their physical, mental and spiritual faculties.

(b) To promote, manage or otherwise assist in a scheme for Workrooms for the Elderly (hereinafter referred to as 'The Scheme').

(c) To provide through the medium of the aforesaid scheme, remunerative employment, under protected conditions, for persons who have reached normal retirement age (i.e., 65 for males and 60 for females) irrespective of race, class, creed, colour religion or politics save that it shall be provided that the organising committee for the time being shall be empowered in its absolute discretion to include in the scheme persons not normally included therein.

(d) To ensure that a fair financial reward is paid to the persons employed in the scheme when engaged in remunerative employment.

(e) To relieve or otherwise assist in the relief of poverty or distress and to provide relief or assist in the providing of relief of pain, suffering and ill health for those persons who otherwise would have benefitted under the scheme.

(f) To further these aims and objects by pursuing any course which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable and do all such things as may seem conducive to the attainment of the above objects, or any of them, including the holding of property and the raising of funds from statutory or voluntary sources.

NOTES AND NEWS

WINDOWS ON POPERINGHE: The Old House Committee of Toc H acknowledges gratefully the gifts that have made it possible for new curtains to be supplied for the windows of Talbot House, Poperinghe, and the gifts of new bedspreads. These have come from members of the Easter, 1954, Pilgrimage to the Old House, from members and branches of the Women's Association and from a small balance on the London Regional Festival last December. Thanks also to Elsa Perrin, Gwen Tett and those who helped to make the curtains.

There are still come vacancies in the Women's Association party for women only on the 27th August and applications should be sent to The Pilgrimage Secretary, Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3, as soon as possible.

TOTTENHAM HONOURS "THE GEN": One sunny Saturday evening in May saw a gathering of Toc H members and friends in Strode Road, Tottenham, to witness the unveiling of a Commemoration Plaque on the wall of number eight, the house where Private Arthur Pettifer, M.M., 1st Batt. The Buffs, and Mrs. Pettifer, spent such a long spell of their married life. Banners from a number of branches in and around London lent colour to the scene as the Mayor of Tottenham, Mrs. A. F. Remington, J.P., unveiled the Plaque and the Founder Padre pronounced the words of Dedication—"In the faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this Plaque, to the greater glory of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

After this simple ceremony some of the company enjoyed the hospitality of the Mayor and were able to see the Town Hall with its beautiful Council Chamber. And so the Senior Vice-President of Toc H, cheerful, humorous and kindly cockney that he was, is remembered. Mrs. Gen lives on, a grand old lady of 81, and is regularly visited by her Toc H friends. **E.M.P.**

AUTUMN WEEKEND? On a glorious spring afternoon a few men and women set off from Edinburgh to visit friends—the rector of Holy Island and his wife, both ex-members of the Stockbridge Branches of Toc H and the Women's Association. Word had got over the Border that there was to be this invasion and a few of the Northern Area members felt they could not let the Scots have it all their own way so those who were near enough and able to rustle up cars (or seats in those of their friends) set off from Tyneside to join the party.

Far from the heated battle there would have been in earlier days, the meeting of the two parties was of the most amicable,

and as news of the various branches of Toc H represented was exchanged informally after supper, in the usual atmosphere of badinage and smoke, new friendships were formed. Plans were set afoot for a much bigger gathering of the clans (and whatever they have in lieu on the benighted side of the Cheviots) for the autumn. Invitations for exchange of visits to each other were accepted and we hope both Areas of Toc H will be enriched by further getting together after the most spontaneous and enjoyable meeting on ground sacred to those of the Christian faith in our land.

We would like to welcome to our next meeting there Toc H members and friends from much farther afield, so if any readers still have a few days holiday to spare at the weekend 17/18 September do come and join us. **Frances M. Beeton.**

NORTH-WEST AREA WEEK-END. The week-end 5th and 6th of March was the one chosen for our Area Rally at Berners Close, Grange-over-Sands, writes Audrey M. Martlew, and proved to be, by mutual agreement, the best ever. Above all, we felt that our speakers gave of themselves unstintingly to interest and inspire us. Miss Ruth O'Kell, C.E.C., Headmistress of Altrincham County Grammar School, was our first speaker; her subject, *Toc H and How it Can Educate its Members to Leadership*. In the evening, time was given for discussion on the subject of Leadership. On Sunday morning, a service was held in the lounge of Berners Close. Then the morning session was led by Miss Anne Dunbar, C.E.C. of Glasgow, her subject being the article in the January Log, "Ambassadors, or are we?" We all left Grange that evening, going our several ways with thankful hearts, feeling that indeed our fellowship together, although brief, had been well worthwhile, and looking forward to many more area gatherings in the years ahead.

Photo by kind permission of the Hastings Observer.

Here are some happy-looking people—congratulations to them! These are members of the Hastings Branch who know how to work hard with wool and have sent many clothing parcels to the Oxford Committee for Famine relief.

SOUTH STAFFS. DISTRICT, writes Faith Hewitt, held an interesting Get-Together on Saturday afternoon, March 12th. This was a Non-Competitive Exhibition of Handwork by the Members of the District. Although Wolverhampton Branch acted as Hostesses, the work was shared by all the branches, as representatives of each one brought the exhibits and arranged them beforehand and removed them at the end of the afternoon.

A great variety of work was shown and much of it reached a high standard.

ST. ALBANS BRANCH. Joan Ferneyhough writes: Guest Night, March 15th.—Towards eighty at a very successful evening. Representatives from Branches in the District, and about twenty guests having their introduction to Toc H. Among these were seven colonial nurses, from Barbados and Jamaica.

After refreshments, Mrs. Gorton gave a short but full talk on Toc H. We sang sea shanties and rounds; and followed with a performance of Haydn's Toy Symphony, and a short sketch entitled "Catherine Pass". "Light" was taken by Tim Graham, of Toc H Men's Branch at St. Albans; and homegoing prayers by Miss Celia Powell.

Lady Day Service, March 22nd. A service of Re-dedication in St. Albans Abbey and conducted by St. Albans Padre, Canon F. G. Brenchley. Eighty members and friends present from following Branches: St. Albans, Burston, Bennetts End, Harpenden, Hatfield, Radlett, Rickmansworth, Watford, Welwyn Garden City, South Oxhey.

NEW ADDRESS. Mrs. Edmund Horne's new address is Flat 2, 49 Drayton Gardens, London, S.W.10, and her telephone number is Fremantle 2793.

A FAMILY GATHERING is to be held on Wednesday, 24th August, from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at Ainslie House, St. Colme Street, Edinburgh. A visit to Dunfermline will take place on Sunday, 4th September, travelling by the 1 p.m. train from Waverley. On both these occasions, Forth and Tay District will welcome members who might like to join them.

CHILDREN IN TROUBLE—copies of this are now available from Crutched Friars House at 6d. per copy or 5s. a dozen, postage extra.

IT IS PROPOSED to hold a conference, during the summer, of men and women interested in Toc H and the Universities. Will any members knowing young men and women at British Universities send their names and addresses to Alec Churcher, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

The 10TH Anniversary

THE Charter of the United Nations was sigiied on June 26th, 1945; by October 24th (now observed every year as United Nations Day) enough countries had ratified the Charter to bring the new world organisation into legal existence. A Preparatory Committee at once got to work at Church House, Westminster, organising the new secretariat and planning the first General Assembly which met in London soon after. The United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was formed in May, 1945; the Association therefore wishes to commemorate this series of tenth anniversaries, with its historic connections with London, in some special way.

After years of frustration from the Cold War, many of us have lost sight of the principles and aims set out in the Preamble to the Charter; and no longer regard them as a programme for action to be carried out now. UNA's first activity in this tenth anniversary year is therefore re-dedication to the principles and aims of the Charter. A Service of Re-dedication and Intercession at Westminster Abbey has been arranged for June 27th.* Her Majesty the Queen Mother proposes to attend. The sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Chichester and ministers from other denominations will take part in the Service. The Roman Catholic Church is also holding a service the same morning in Westminster Cathedral, and it is hoped the Jewish Community will also hold a similar service in London.

To these Services will be invited not only the leaders of our national life and members of the Diplomatic Corps (together with representatives of UNA's regional and local organisations and affiliated bodies), but also civic leaders from every part of the country in the hope that they will in response give their full support to similar Services in every town and village on United Nations Sunday, October 23rd.

In the afternoon of June 27th, the London County Council is to give a Civic Reception in the County Hall, Westminster, at which the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs will speak.

AS every British Government has insisted, the people must understand the issues at stake for it is upon their will that policies ultimately depend: so UNA has planned a nation-wide discussion project under the title "We the Peoples . . . A Citizens' Enquiry into the United Nations". Its aim is to encourage groups to seek for information and to express their own views. Further information from local branches of UNA or from the Secretary, United Nations Association, 25 Charles Street, London, W.1.

* *This was written—and we go to Press—before the end of June but you will be reading the* Log *after this date.*—Editor.

LETTERS . . .

Dear Editor,

Please allow me to say that I think Jean Edwards has misunderstood the attitude of the Women's Association towards study. There never has been any suggestion that a *branch* should become a centre for study and we should not approve if it did.

Toc H must undoubtedly be Everyman's Club, *but* Everyman includes many who are keen to widen their knowledge of the world and its problems and the Christian approach to these problems. It is *these* who ask for study groups and lectures, and leaders in Areas and Districts are having an interesting time arranging to meet their needs. If Jean Edwards ever dropped in on one of these groups she would find people from many branches, men as well as women. **ELSA M. PERRIN.**

Dear Editor,

Envy is one of those deadly sins it is very difficult not to be guilty of, when reading of the possibilities for refreshment of body, mind and spirit, in holidays at Leiston Abbey and Farnham Castle. But why, oh why, must these opportunities only be open to those who may take their holidays in late July and August? Surely there must be hundreds of members who go away, of choice or necessity, in May, June or September? Could not something be done to provide an opportunity for them?

It has been suggested that there is no suitable accommodation in Britain, outside school holidays; but of this I am unconvinced. Some have said that there is no demand for a summer school during these periods—but do we really know?

I realise that these holidays entail a tremendous amount of organisation, and for 1955 I know there is no hope. But if you will be kind enough to publish this, I hope that within a few weeks there will be such a volume of mail assailing Crutched Friars, "demanding" that there be a Summer School in June, '56, that someone (if only in self defence!) will be moved to turn a hope into a reality. **E. J. HARVEY**

Dear Editor,

Last evening I heard and was much disturbed by a discussion about war and the H-bomb. Then I read a passage from the Bible, St. Mark Ch. ii, v. 22-26.

Now I have not the gift of powerful eloquence, but I do beseech all members everywhere when they daily pray to do so with all their heart, mind, soul and strength in the earnest belief that as it has pleased God to lead men to discover profound scientific knowledge, so shall it please Him to lead them to use all such knowledge for the benefit of mankind and not

Plenty of subjects here—some of them provocative! Any replies?

towards its destruction: towards love of all mankind and away from hate.

I am convinced that such a daily and continuous stream of prayer uttered with no doubt in our hearts, but in the earnest belief that those things for which we pray *shall* come to pass, would call upon the power of God to touch men's hearts in greater measure than we can comprehend.

DORIS ROWE
(Pilot, Exeter Branch, Toc H. W.A.)

SCARBOROUGH REPLIES

Dear Editor,

In reply to Margaret Broom, I would point out that Scarborough Branch looks upon its yearly special effort for Central funds as a moral obligation. We take it for granted that all other Branches are doing the same. Alas for the defaulting 169!

Having held our Special Effort last year and sent over £20 to Headquarters, we organised an extra effort in the shape of a Bazaar "for Toc H Charities". We did feel impelled to send a certain proportion (£10) to the Women's Association funds, as extension of the Toc H idea is a form of charity. But the bulk of the money went to charities about which Toc H is vitally concerned—Belra, Botha's Hill, Toc H Services' Clubs and U.N.I.C.E.F.

We make no apology.

MARY R. MARTIN

Dear Editor,

The enclosed article (published on page 104) is a talk I gave one night to our Takapuna group of which I am a member. As you stated in one of the Logs your desire for contributions from members overseas, we thought you might find space to publish the article, and who knows? it just might give some encouragement to some other tardy soul.

Now for a thumbnail sketch of the Takapuna Group: We live on the North Shore across the harbour from our main city Auckland. On the 28th March this year we celebrate our second birthday and at the party that evening two new members will be initiated; another probationer will be initiated later on, and in a month or so we hope to welcome two more, thus bringing our numbers up to eleven; we are growing slowly but steadily.

Our activities during the past year have been many and varied, such as taking children from the Brett Home into our own homes one day a month; helping at a stall in aid of the Brett Home; collecting for St. John Ambulance on their flag day. Some members are blood donors, and some do knitting for different causes.

When you write to the LOG, cut out this coupon and stick it on the left-hand top corner of your envelope

LETTERS

And now, dear editor, with all good wishes to your self, and all Toc H Women's Associations at 'Home' and overseas from Toc H Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand.

(Mrs.) LYDIA BURROW.

Dear Editor,

It would be a good thing if we could get some wise ruling on Self Denial Weeks. This subject was troubling my own Branch only this week.

There is a danger of becoming so involved in "good works" that we place on ourselves greater burdens than we can bear. Those of us who are members of a church are no doubt urged to make the six weeks of Lent a time of self denial. There are endless appeals in the religious press for the most worthy causes that we should give our money to. Envelopes are pushed through our doors begging us to make some self denial and place the proceeds therein. What are we to do? It would seem that we ought to do little short of taking the vow of poverty.

My own way was made clear many years ago. After allowing for Income Tax and N.H.I. I lay aside a tenth of my remaining salary. I allow for Income Tax and N.H.I. because the State now takes on itself a large part of the responsibility of providing for the sick and poor that was once the sole charge of the Church.

At first I was rather appalled at the sum I should have to put by, but having resolved I did it. Since then I have always had a sum of money by me on which I can draw for the many appeals that come along from time to time, and like the widow's cruse of oil, it fails not. It provides funds for my church, my contributions to Toc H—the means whereby I can give gifts to the sick or help someone in need, and many other things.

Like D.C. I do not smoke and attend no weekly place of pleasure. I also live at home and my travelling expenses are low, but there is always something that one can go without and Lent is an excellent time for discipline. Why should not Toc H make an appeal at this time that those who do try over this period to make some sacrifice—it may be sweets or flowers if we do not smoke or go to cinemas—and allocate part, if not the whole, of the nett result to Toc H.

It is with no desire to boast that I have stated my own case, but rather to point the way whereby self denial can be smoothed out by a right use of our money.

ANOTHER PILOT

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Day .....

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The Secretary is .....

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